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Boulevard News

June 2009
Kreston Lipscomb, Pastor

First Church of the Brethren, 2115 Yale Blvd., Springfield, IL 62703
www.1stcob.net pastor@1stcob.net 217-523-5212

NOAC in North Carolina

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Legacies of Wisdom: Weaving Old and New is the theme for this year's National Older Adult Conference (NOAC). Once again the conference will be held at the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. The retreat center is about forty minutes west of Asheville, N.C. The dates are September 7-11. Participants must be fifty years or older.

This year is the 10th National Older Adult Conference. The theme is taken from 1 Corinthians 2: 6-7, which reads, *"We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or the rulers of this age who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory."* Worship and workshops will explore a variety of questions. What are the legacies of our Church of the Brethren heritage that we yearn to pass on to future generations? How do we reclaim the treasures

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California Bound

Roger Ruth will serve as our Annual Conference Delegate at the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference.

Roger Ruth will be one of several thousand Church of the Brethren members traveling to San Diego, CA to attend this year's Church of the Brethren Annual Conference, June 26-30. The theme is "The Old Has Gone, The New Has Come, All This Is From God." Conference Moderator is David Shumate, the District Executive of the Virginia District. In the May issue of *Messenger* Shumate says, *"The number one issue...is we need to expend less energy talking and reorganizing our structure, and more time spent on vision and ministry. The second thing is to get our focus off how little we have and think about how we use what we do have."*

Annual Conference will be held at the Town & Country Resort. All of the business sessions, worship, and exhibits will take place in this one location. Most attendees will be staying at the resort, as well.

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The Vine and the Branches

In a couple of weeks we are going to dedicate the new “memorial garden” that is now at the front of our church meetinghouse. It has been fun to watch some of the first plants come alive this spring.

“In the garden, we remember.”

This project was largely the vision of the adult Sunday school class. It was seen as a way of remembering those members and friends of First Church who have died. The large rock located near the front edge of the garden is inscribed. It says, “In the garden, we remember.”

All congregations experience the death(s) of beloved members and friends. But sometimes, in small member churches, several deaths over a brief period of time can seem to take your breath away. The garden is one way we seek to honor those past members of the church family.

Last week, during one of those beautiful 80 degrees days, I took a list of the names of sisters and brothers who have died since I became pastor here in 1986 to the garden. I sat on the stone wall, with the sun overhead, and read through the list. At each name I paused. I paused to remember the unique way each person was a part of our community. I paused and gave thanks to God for the blessing of their presence in our church family. It was a good exercise. It filled me with both smiles and tears. In the garden, I was remembering.

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of the past while creating new possibilities of hope for our families, our church, and our world? What wisdom, values, and faith can we weave together in a tapestry of blessing?

In addition to the worship and workshops, there are opportunities to hike the Appalachian Trail and to visit areas of the Great Smokey Mountains. Also, two concerts will be held; one on Tuesday evening and another on Thursday evening.

Cost for NOAC is \$150 (online) or \$160 (mail-in) for registrations prior to July 24. Housing and food is extra and a variety of plans are available to choose from. Registration forms and brochures are at the church office. Please speak with Pastor Kres if you are interested in attending.

Worship Opportunities in May & June

Pentecost Sunday, May 31: "Discovering a Common Language." Our worship on Pentecost Sunday will focus on readings Acts 2: 1-21 and Genesis 11: 1-8a. A primary focus of these texts is language, understanding, and being understood. Let's celebrate the power of the Holy Spirit to draw people together rather than separating people.

Sunday, June 7: "Our District Moderator's Reflection." Brother Gil Crosby, Moderator of the Illinois and Wisconsin will bring the morning message. Gil is a member of the Peoria Church of the Brethren and a licensed minister. He will be leading this year's District Conference (November 6-8) in Naperville, IL.

Sunday, June 14: "Every Day." The Gospel text for this morning will be John 3: 1-17. The Old Testament reading is Genesis 12: 1-4a. Pastor Kres' message will invite another look at the phrase, "born again."

Sunday, June 21: "Let Us Go Across..." In the NRSV of the Bible, the heading for today's lesson is "Jesus Stills a Storm." We'll look at that lesson, but will concentrate more on what is going on before and after the time at sea. Please read: Mark 4: 35-41.

Sunday, June 28: "Healing Stories." Our reading for this Sunday is Mark 5: 21-43.

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Roger will be attending the business sessions as our delegate. The delegates will address at least five items of new business: A Statement of Confession and Commitment (brought by Standing Committee); a revision of the document "A Structural Framework for Dealing with Strongly Controversial Issues"; revised by-laws for the Church of the Brethren; and two queries: "Language on Same-Sex Covenantal Relationships" and "Secret Oath-Bound Societies." A variety of other agenda items will also be on the schedule. Roger will bring back his report on these and more in July.

The May *Messenger* has a Conference preview and is available at the church meetinghouse, if you need a copy. You can follow Conference activities by going on-line at www.brethren.org. Please keep Roger and all of the other delegates in your prayers.

Pastor Kres will not be attending Annual Conference this year. Liz and Kres' daughter, Laura, is due to deliver her first child right around conference time.



Anniversary Logo: Flames of the Spirit

"The Church is not about what people do or not do, but how each one of us incarnates the living image of God in our midst."

-A.C. Moderator, David Shumate

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We, as a community of faith, have been blessed by the presence of many who found this the place and community to live out their faith in day-to-day ways. Hopefully, there will be many more sisters and brothers to come. I hope this garden space can be a place of remembering for them, as well.

I thank the Sunday school class for

helping this project along. I thank Patty Brockmeyer and Terry Dobbs and their landscaping business for their time and effort of "putting" the garden-area in place. It has become a nice spot for this pastor to sit and reflect.

Blessings,

Pastor Kres

News, Notes, etc.

Invitation to the Governor's Mansion. Tom Martin has invited the congregation to tour the garden at the Mansion on Sunday, May 31. We will meet Tom there after worship. Drink and cookies will be supplied.

Worship leaders for June. Worship leaders for the month of June include: Pastor Kres, Jan Stoller, Roger Ruth, and Sam Brubaker.

Garden Dedication. The new memorial garden in front of the meetinghouse will be dedicated as a part of our morning worship on June 14.

Consecration Service. A service of consecration will take place on June 21. We will be consecrating Roger Ruth as our Annual Conference delegate for 2009 &

2010. Roger will be attending conferences at San Diego, CA and Pittsburgh, PA.

National Youth Conference 2010. The dates and theme of the next National Youth Conference (NYC) have been announced. The dates are July 17-22, 2010. The theme will be, "More Than Meets the Eye," drawn from 2 Corinthians 4: 6-10, 16-18 (The Message). The scripture passage, according to NYC co-coordinator, Matt Witkovsky, "reminds us that God does great things through each person...Even though we may seem like simple jars of clay, with God's light we are more than meets the eye." Details will be posted as they become available at the new NYC website: www.2010nyc.org. NYC is an event for senior high youth and advisors. The setting will be Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, CO. The Illinois & Wisconsin District Youth Cabinet will be working to arrange travel plans for those attending from our district.

Treasurer's Report. The most current treasurer's report (through April) is available. Tithes and offerings are exceeding budget projections. Please pick up a copy.



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2115 Yale Boulevard
Springfield, IL 62703

Phone:
217-523-5212

Web:
www.1stcob.net

E-mail:
pastor@1stcob.net